

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (previously presented) A cushion for helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said cushion comprising:

a unitary preformed U-shaped structure having a base portion and two legs extending equidistant from said base portion, said two legs having axial ends,

when placed into the car seat, said base portion of said cushion being located at a top of the back surface and said axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface, and

one or both of said axial ends containing an audible sound producing device,

said cushion reducing the surface area for an infant to be placed in the car seat to occupy in order to help secure the infant in the car seat and to minimize slouching of the infant in the car seat,

wherein the audible sound producing device is a music box which is self-activating in response to an impact force exceeding a predetermined impact force threshold.

Claims 16 – 25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (previously presented) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the infant into the car seat, and

placing a first cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat, said tube-shaped structure having an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion where said two legs are joined together, said base portion being located at the top of the back surface of the car seat and the two axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface of the car seat, said cushion legs engaging the side walls of the car seat,

placing a second cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the first cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the second cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion located next to the base portion of the first cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the second cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion spaced from the free edge of the seat surface of the car seat,

placing a third cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the second cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the third cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and base portion located next to the base portion of the second cushion and

the two axial ends of the legs of the third cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion and not next to the legs of the second cushion,

the infant being surrounded by and engaging the third cushion base portion and legs to reduce the surface area of the car seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing slouching of the infant in the car seat,

wherein the second cushion has a length which is shorter than the first cushion.

Claim 27 (previously presented) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's car seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the car seat, the car seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the infant into the car seat, and

placing a first cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat, said tube-shaped structure having an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion where said two legs are joined together, said base portion being located at the top of the back surface of the car seat and the two axial ends of said legs being located at a free edge of the seat surface of the car seat, said cushion legs engaging the side walls of the car seat,

placing a second cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the first cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the second cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and a base portion located next to the base portion of the first cushion and

the two axial ends of the legs of the second cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion spaced from the free edge of the seat surface of the car seat,

placing a third cushion having a unitary tube shaped structure into the car seat next to the second cushion, wherein the tube-shaped structure of the third cushion has an upside down U-shape including two legs with two axial ends and base portion located next to the base portion of the second cushion and the two axial ends of the legs of the third cushion being located next to the legs of the first cushion and not next to the legs of the second cushion,

the infant being surrounded by and engaging the third cushion base portion and legs to reduce the surface area of the car seat for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing slouching of the infant in the car seat,

wherein the third cushion has a length which is longer than the second cushion but is shorter than the first cushion.

Claim 28 (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, including the step of:

preceding the step of placing the first cushion into the car seat, bending the first cushion into an upside down U-shape at a location which is at approximately half of a total length of the first cushion.

Claim 29 (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, including the step of:

preceding the step of placing the second cushion into the car seat, bending the second cushion into an upside down U-shape at a location which is at approximately half of a total length of the second cushion.

Claims 30 – 35 (cancelled).

Claim 36 (new) A method of helping to secure an infant in a child's seat and to prevent slouching of the infant in the child's seat, the child's seat comprising a seat surface and a back surface extending between two side walls, said method comprising the steps of

 providing a first unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of the first cushion,

 providing a second unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of the second cushion,

 providing a third unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of the third cushion,

 positioning the first cushion in the child's seat, said step of positioning the first cushion in the child's seat includes positioning the base portion of the first cushion in engagement with the back surface of the child's seat, said step of positioning the first cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a first one of the legs of the first cushion along and in engagement with a first one of

the side walls of the child's seat, said step of positioning the first cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a second one of the legs of the first cushion along and in engagement with a second one of the side walls of the child's seat,

positioning the second cushion in the child's seat, said step of positioning the second cushion in the child's seat includes positioning the base portion of the second cushion in engagement with the base portion of the first cushion, said step of positioning the second cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a first one of the legs of the second cushion in engagement with the first one of the legs of the first cushion, said step of positioning the second cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a second one of the legs of the second cushion in engagement with the second one of the legs of the first cushion,

positioning the third cushion in the child's seat, said step of positioning the third cushion in the child's seat includes positioning the base portion of the third cushion in engagement with the base portion of the second cushion, said step of positioning the third cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a first one of the legs of the third cushion in engagement with the first one of the legs of the second cushion, said step of positioning the third cushion in the child's seat includes positioning a second one of the legs of the third cushion in engagement with the second one of the legs of the second cushion and

placing the infant into the child's seat with lateral sides and top of the head of the infant at least partially enclosed by the base portion of the third cushion and with hips and legs of the infant at least partially disposed between the first and second legs of the first cushion to reduce surface area of the child's seat

for the infant to occupy in order to help minimizing of slouching of the infant in the child's seat.

Claim 37 (new) A method as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of positioning a first one of the legs of the third cushion in engagement with the first one of the legs of the second cushion includes positioning the first one of the legs of the third cushion with an axial end portion of the first one of the legs of the third cushion extending beyond an axial end of the first one of the legs of the second cushion in a direction away from the base portion of the third cushion, said step of positioning a second one of the legs of the third cushion in engagement with the second one of the legs of the second cushion includes positioning the second one of the legs of the third cushion with an axial end portion of the second one of the legs of the third cushion extending beyond an axial end of the second one of the legs of the second cushion in a direction away from the base portion of the third cushion.

Claim 38 (new) A method as set forth in claim 36 wherein said step of placing the infant into the child's seat includes placing the infant in the child's seat with axial ends of the legs of the second cushion disposed adjacent shoulders of the infant.

Claim 39 (new) A method as set forth in claim 38 wherein said step of placing the infant into the child's seat includes placing the infant in the child's seat with portions of the first and second legs of the third cushion disposed adjacent to upper portions of arms of the infant.

Claim 40 (new) An apparatus comprising:

a child's seat having first and second side walls with a seat surface extending between said first and second side walls and a back surface extending between said first and second side walls,

a first unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of said first cushion, said base portion of said first cushion being disposed in engagement with said back surface of said child's seat, a first one of said two legs of said first cushion extends along the first side wall of said child's seat, a second one of said two legs of said first cushion extends along the second side wall of the child's seat,

a second unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of said second cushion, said base portion of said second cushion being disposed in engagement with said base portion of said first cushion, a first one of said two legs of said second cushion being disposed in engagement with said first leg of said first cushion, a second one of said two legs of said second cushion being disposed in engagement with said second leg of said first cushion,

a third unitary cushion having an upside down U-shaped structure with a base portion which extends between two legs of said third cushion, said base portion of said third cushion being disposed in engagement with said base portion of said second cushion, a first one of said two legs of said third cushion being disposed in engagement with said first leg of said second cushion, a second one of said two legs of said third cushion being disposed in engagement with said second leg of said second cushion,

said base portion of said third cushion being adapted to at least partially enclose lateral sides and top of a head of an infant disposed in the child's seat, said first and second legs of said first cushion being adapted to at least partially enclose hips and legs of the infant, said first, second and third cushions cooperate to reduce surface area of the child's seat for the infant to occupy to help minimize slouching of the infant in the child's seat.

Claim 41 (new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 40 wherein said first leg of said third cushion extends beyond an axial end of said first leg of said second cushion in a direction away from said base portion of said third cushion, said second leg of said third cushion extends beyond an axial end of said second leg of said second cushion in a direction away from said base portion of said third cushion.